

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Sam Roman
Chief of Police

A photograph of the Lexington Police Department building. In the foreground, there is a tall American flag on a pole and a flower bed with red and white flowers. The building has a sign that says "LEXINGTON" and "POLICE DEPARTMENT".

2018 FAST FACTS

18 Sworn Officers

5 Civilian Staff

*Awarded 6th Consecutive State
Accreditation*

807 Officer School Visits

Celebrated 150th Year

5,278 calls for service

1224 Training Hours completed

162,158 Miles Patrolled



OUR MISSION

We, the members of the Lexington Police Department, exist to serve all people within our jurisdiction with respect, fairness, and compassion.

We are committed to the preservation of peace and the safeguarding of constitutional guarantees. With community service as our foundation, we are driven by goals to enhance the quality of life and fostering a sense of public trust by holding ourselves to the highest standards of performance and ethics.

The Lexington Police Department is dedicated to providing a quality work environment and the development of its members through effective training and leadership. Leadership, Pride, Duty; the foundation of our agency.

CONTENTS

- Department Overview
- Chiefs Message
- Organizational Structure
- Notable Events
- Equipment and Technology
- Community Engagement
- Officer Recognitions
- Crime Statistics
- Budget

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Produced by the Lexington Police Department Office of the Chief.
Chief S. Roman – Editing
Corporal R. Smith – Editing and design
DATA CONTRIBUTORS:
Central Dispatch / ECC Records
Lori Condry - LPD Records
PHOTO CREDITS:
LPD Photo Archive
Accreditation Manager Elizabeth Knudson

The Lexington Police Department is an accredited law enforcement agency and meets the high Standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Office of the Chief of Police

The Lexington Police Department is commanded by the Chief of Police. During calendar year 2018, the Lexington Police Department was authorized 18 sworn police officers and 5 civilian personnel to provide law enforcement services to the City of Lexington, Virginia.

The Deputy Chief is the second highest rank in the police department and reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Deputy Chief is assigned as the commanding officer of major organizational components such as Professional Standards, Detective Division, Records or the Internal Affairs Group. The Deputy Chief acts as a chief of staff to the Chief of Police and keeps the police chief informed about all operational activities.

Criminal Investigations Division

The General Investigations Detective is assigned to the investigation of serious felony and misdemeanor offenses that occur in the City. The Detective is typically assigned to follow-up on incidents initially reported to patrol officers; detectives have the training and the necessary time to more thoroughly investigate reported criminal incidents in order to identify suspects, affect arrests, and successfully prosecute cases.

The Narcotics Detective is assigned primarily to major drug investigations and intelligence gathering efforts on individuals and groups involved in the distribution and trafficking of illicit narcotics in Lexington and Rockbridge County.

Patrol Division

The Lieutenant serves as the Commander of the Patrol Division and also oversees the Animal Control and Parking Enforcement Unit.

A Sergeant is assigned to command each of the four patrol shifts. The Sergeant is responsible for the leadership of the shift to ensure that goals and objectives are accomplished. Each patrol Sergeant is assigned a Corporal and Patrol Officers.

Special Enforcement Unit

The Lexington Police Department is responsible for Parking Enforcement and Animal Control Services. Special Enforcement Officers are equipped and trained to enforce the City parking and animal ordinances. There are many domestic animal owners residing in our City. It is the goal of the Police Department's Special Enforcement Unit to ensure that these animals are protected from abuse, confined to the owner's property, and to protect our citizens from animal attacks and destruction of their property.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report for the Lexington Police Department. There are many mechanisms in which a municipal law enforcement agency is measured however, the community is the greatest appraiser of our service. The statistics from 2018 and the low volume of crime is a synonymous reflection of the extraordinary level of cooperation we have with our professional partners, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and, most importantly, our community.

Within the ranks of the Lexington Police Department, we are committed to community engagement, service excellence and the pursuit of justice so that the community remains confident in our ability to serve and protect those that live, work and visit this great City.

The men and women of the Lexington Police Department fully understand the trust bestowed upon us is earned each day through cultivating and maintaining meaningful community relationships. As we move into 2019, we will continue to challenge ourselves toward creating opportunities that will facilitate a collaborative experience, so together we can continue providing professional, reliable and diverse service.

This annual report is a synopsis of the work we completed this past year. The women and men of the Lexington Police Department are grateful for your continued support. I encourage you to stay connected throughout 2019 by following us on social media, attending our neighborhood watch meetings or interacting with staff members at the many scheduled and informal community events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romano".

Chief of Police

Lexington Police Department

MEET OUR STAFF

The Lexington Police Department proudly maintains a progressive, highly trained, technically skilled, energetic, diverse and well-equipped police department. The Lexington Police Department has been accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) since 1998 and was reaccredited in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018. This is a significant accomplishment for the men and women of the department. VLEPSC accreditation is a rigorous and difficult process that, if achieved, affirms the professional status of law enforcement agencies statewide.

Deputy Chief • Captain Mark E. Riley



Captain Riley attended Dabney S. Lancaster and holds an Associate Degree with a major in the Administration of Justice with academic honors. He has been employed with the Lexington Police Department since August 1993.

He has been assigned to the State Police Regional Drug Task Force and the Criminal Investigation Division as Detective Sergeant. Captain Riley has risen through the ranks and was promoted to Captain in 2015. He has most recently served as the departments Interim Chief from May 2016 to October 2017.

Patrol CDR • Lieutenant Michael R. Frost



Lieutenant Frost attended Radford University graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He has served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry rifleman and fleet anti-terrorism security force member in active and reserve status.

Lieutenant Frost began his career in law enforcement career with the Roanoke County Police Department in 1997. In 2004 he was hired by the Lexington Police Department and has since acted as a patrol shift supervisor, vehicle fleet manager, quartermaster, honor guard commander, driver instructor and administrator of the field training program.

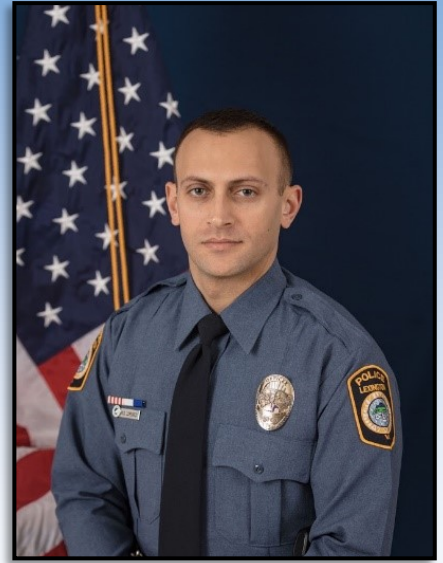
A – SHIFT



1st Sgt. M. Scott Fitzgerald
Serving Since 2004



Corporal Robert E. Smith
Serving Since 2009



Officer Matthew D. Lombardi
Serving Since 2014

B – SHIFT



Sgt. Mike E. Huffman
Serving Since 1994



Corporal Aaron W. Britton
Serving Since 2014



Officer J. Scotty Panebianco
Serving Since 2018

C – SHIFT



Sergeant Ronald D. Condry
Serving Since 2006



Corporal T. Keith Mohler
Serving Since 2013



Officer Ricardo L. Haston
Serving Since 2016

D – SHIFT



Sergeant Cherie Padgett
Serving Since 2005



Corporal Jessica A. Burks
Serving Since 2011



Officer Claude O. Hartbarger
Serving Since 2017



Officer Loran S. Dreelin
Serving Since 2017



Detective Nathan B. Kesterson
Serving Since 2004



Detective Gregory W. Gardner
Serving Since 2008



Elizabeth A. Knudson
Serving Since 2013



Vicki H. Pickle
Serving Since 2014



Lori N. Condry
Serving Since 2015



Freddie S. Rogers
Serving Since 2016



David E. Husaw
Serving Since 2018

STATE ACCREDITATION



The Lexington Police Department has been an accredited agency since January 8, 1998. Accreditation is the process by which the department must demonstrate compliance with 194 professional standards as set forth by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). These standards include department policy, procedure, administration, operations, personnel, and training requirements. In order to maintain its accredited status, the Lexington Police Department participated in an official on-site assessment where representatives

of VLEPSC evaluated the department and determined if compliance had been demonstrated.

The three-day on-site assessment took place from January 29 – January 31, 2019 and included file review, tours of the agency and communications center, and a static display of patrol vehicles and other equipment used by the department.

Throughout the course of the assessment, questions were asked if a particular proof of compliance prompted further explanation. The assessment team was satisfied with the answers provided and any additional proofs of compliance that were requested were also produced. On January 31, 2019, the assessment team conducted an exit interview with Chief Roman and noted that no accreditation files were returned for any major or minor repairs.

The Lexington Police Department will appear before the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission at a meeting in Newport News, VA on May 9, 2019. The Commission will decide, upon hearing the final report from the assessment team leader, if the agency will receive re-accreditation. This will be the department's sixth accreditation award.



NOTABLE EVENTS



OFFICER C.O. HARTBARGER

Officer Hartbarger graduated from the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy after an extensive 22 weeks of training. Along with his classmates, Officer Hartbarger spent countless hours in the classroom, studying, practicing and seeing his efforts finally pay off.

OFFICER J.S. PANEBIANCO

Officer Panebianco joined the LPD family in November. Officer Panebianco formerly served with the Virginia Military Institute Police Department. He comes to us from a long family line of service to the community. Officer Panebianco is a graduate of the Rappahannock Criminal Justice Academy.

NOTABLE EVENTS



OFFICER L.S. DREELIN

We would like to congratulate Officer L.S. Dreelin for her successful completion of the basic law enforcement academy. Officer Dreelin is our Special Enforcement Officer that oversees such duties as animal control, parking and code enforcement. Formerly she did so as a conservator of the peace. With her successful completion of the academy, she has earned her commission as fully sworn Police Officer. Outstanding work Officer Dreelin!

LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED

Cyclists and support teams from Law Enforcement United made a stop in Lexington during a 3 day bicycle tour across the Commonwealth. The event which started in Roanoke, concludes when the group reaches Washington D.C.

Law Enforcement United is a 100% volunteer driven organization and is made up of Law Enforcement Officers, Survivors, and Civilian supporters. The group is committed to honoring officers who have died in the line of duty, and ensuring that their surviving family is supported and not forgotten.

During the groups stop-over in Lexington, a ceremony was held at the police department to honor Fallen police officers and the Survivors that have been left behind.



EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

MOBILE DATA TERMINALS

Via a capitol improvement project, the Lexington Police Department acquired eleven Getac S410 laptops for patrol use. The acquisition was necessary due to the previous tablets having surpassed their useful life expectancy and were unable to operate within the parameters of the new RMS (record management system) and CAD (computer aided dispatch) software.

Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) allow our officers to quickly access Department of Motor Vehicle records and the National Crime Information Center. In seconds, officer's can access information related to driver's license, registration, stolen property, search for active warrants, probation and parole status, and miscellaneous other items. Officer's can enter a vehicle's plate number and get information that ultimately may save his life.

When an officer types a request it travels to an MDT controller, to a network control processor, to a front end computer, which then routes the request to the proper database. The Federal Bureau of Investigations maintains the National Crime Information Center in Washington and the Virginia State Police handles the Virginia Criminal Information Network.

Mobile data terminals can also used for informal messages between officers and for sensitive information that may be easily eavesdropped over voice channels. Officers can arrange to meet with each other or discuss a case without tying up the dispatcher. MDT's are used to protect victim's identities or other details of a crime from being overheard by radio monitors outside the police department.

Other features of MDTs are street maps, distress buttons, and status timers.



RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Through a countywide collaborative effort, Harris Corporation was selected to provide an enhanced public safety communications solution serving first responders throughout Rockbridge County.

As a result of advancements in radio communications, the new digital platform delivers a much more consistent and reliable experience over the previous and outdated system. Significant advancements include the utilization and or prioritization of multiple channels when responding to emergency situations. By utilizing a multiple channel network, communication efficiency between agencies drastically improves during an incident. Audio clarity has improved considerably as well.

The state-of-the-art system provides countywide coverage and modern services based on Harris' VIDA platform. This transition has enhanced the departments level of interoperability, not only with Rockbridge County, but the neighboring municipalities of VMI, Glasgow and Buena Vista.



Harris Public Safety and Professional Communications is a leading supplier of communications systems and equipment for public safety. The business has more than 80 years of experience in public safety and professional communications and supports more than 500 systems around the world.

Harris supports government and commercial customers in more than 100 countries and has approximately \$6 billion in annual revenue.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

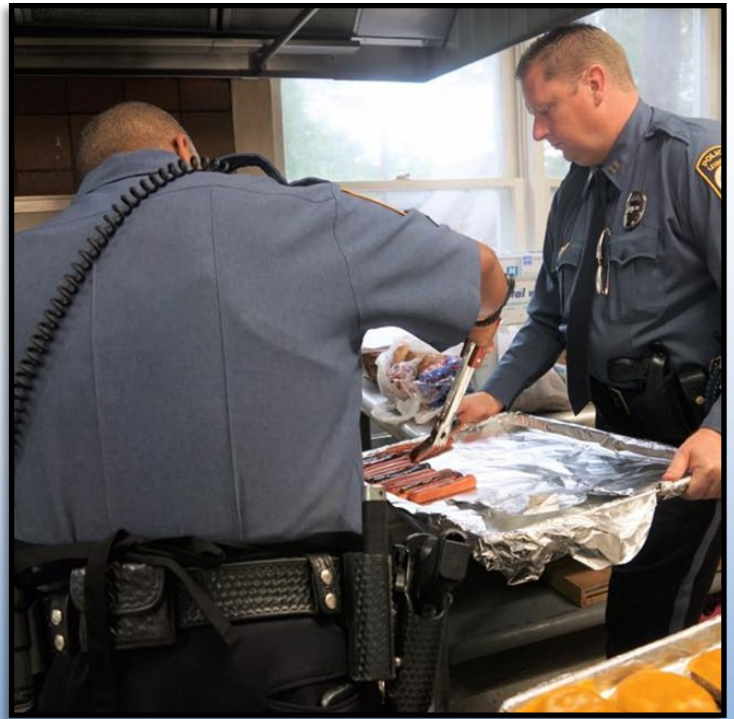
Congratulations to the graduates of the Rockbridge Regional Citizen Police Academy for their successful completion of the program!



The academy provides an opportunity for citizens to learn firsthand about police operations.

Through a series of lectures, field trips, and simulated activities, citizens are provided training similar to that of an actual police officer.

The Academy is of benefit to both the community and agency as it builds relationships and creates a cadre of citizens who are better informed about the realities of police work.



Residents of the Mayflower Assisted Living Facility that were unable to attend our annual picnic at Richardson Park were treated to a delicious lunch by members of the department.



Officers had a great time assisting students at Maury River Middle School with the development of bike riding skills.

The students worked extremely hard at practicing the necessary techniques and were rewarded for their efforts.



The Annual Rockbridge Community Festival is an annual downtown arts and crafts festival sponsored by the Lexington-Rockbridge Jaycees and the Lexington Rotary Club. There are numerous food and snack vendors throughout the Festival and in the Food Court located north of Washington Street. Throughout the day, patrons are entertained by local artists, musicians, and dancer groups.





October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to bring attention to this problem, members of the LPD added domestic violence awareness pins to their uniforms for the month.

Domestic violence continues to be a problem throughout the Commonwealth and is often ignored or not reported by witnesses or by those suffering through the abuse. Be a community hero and take a stand for those that cannot defend themselves.

Law enforcement officers from local agencies had a great time this December shopping with area children. Shop with a Cop provides a fun filled experience for children in need while creating positive relationships with law enforcement.

The participating children are identified by schools, churches, youth organizations, and social services agencies. Each child was paired with a law enforcement officer & then given money to spend on friends, family, or themselves.

The event was coordinated by the Fraternal Order of Police

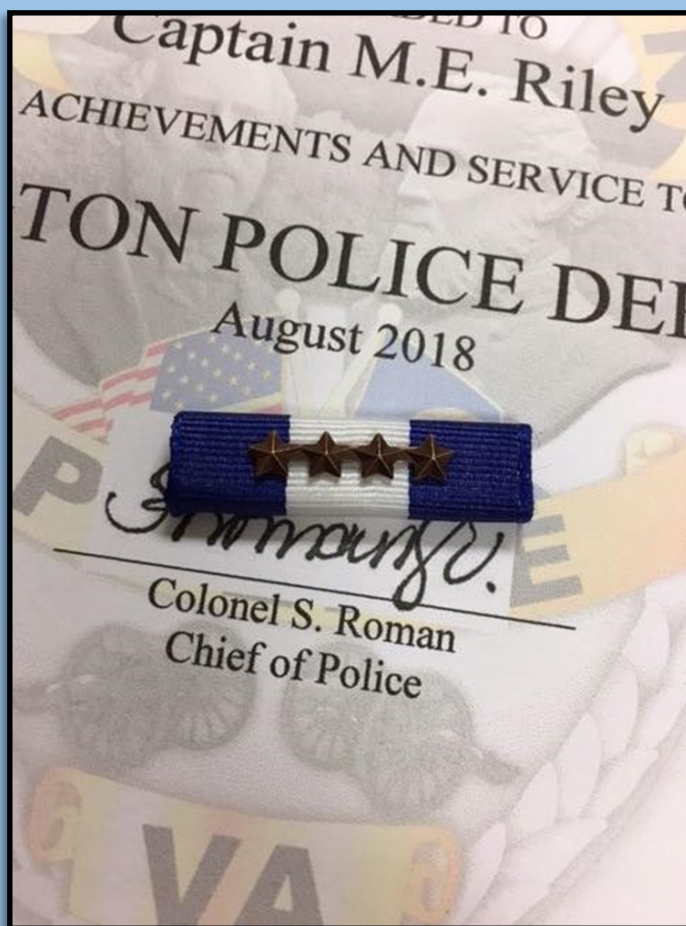


OFFICER RECOGNITION



Congratulations to Officer R.L. Haston for his recent achievement of qualifying for the departments “Firearms Proficiency” ribbon. This ribbon is awarded to Officers who maintain a qualification score of 95 or higher with their sidearm for at least 2 consecutive years. Nicely done Officer Haston.

Congratulations to Corporal J.A. Burks for being awarded the 2018 Mothers Against Drunk Driving award. Her efforts to promote safe driving practices and community awareness regarding intoxicated drivers has helped tremendously in making Lexington one of the safest cities in the Commonwealth.



Congratulations to Deputy Chief of Police, Captain M.E. Riley on 25 years of service to the LPD and the community.

For his dedication, he was awarded the LPD Career Service Ribbon with 4 bronze stars. Thanks for all that you do Captain.

Congratulations to Corporal A.W. Britton for his recent completion of the Institute for Leadership in Changing Times which is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police & Foundation.



CRIME STATISTICS - 2018

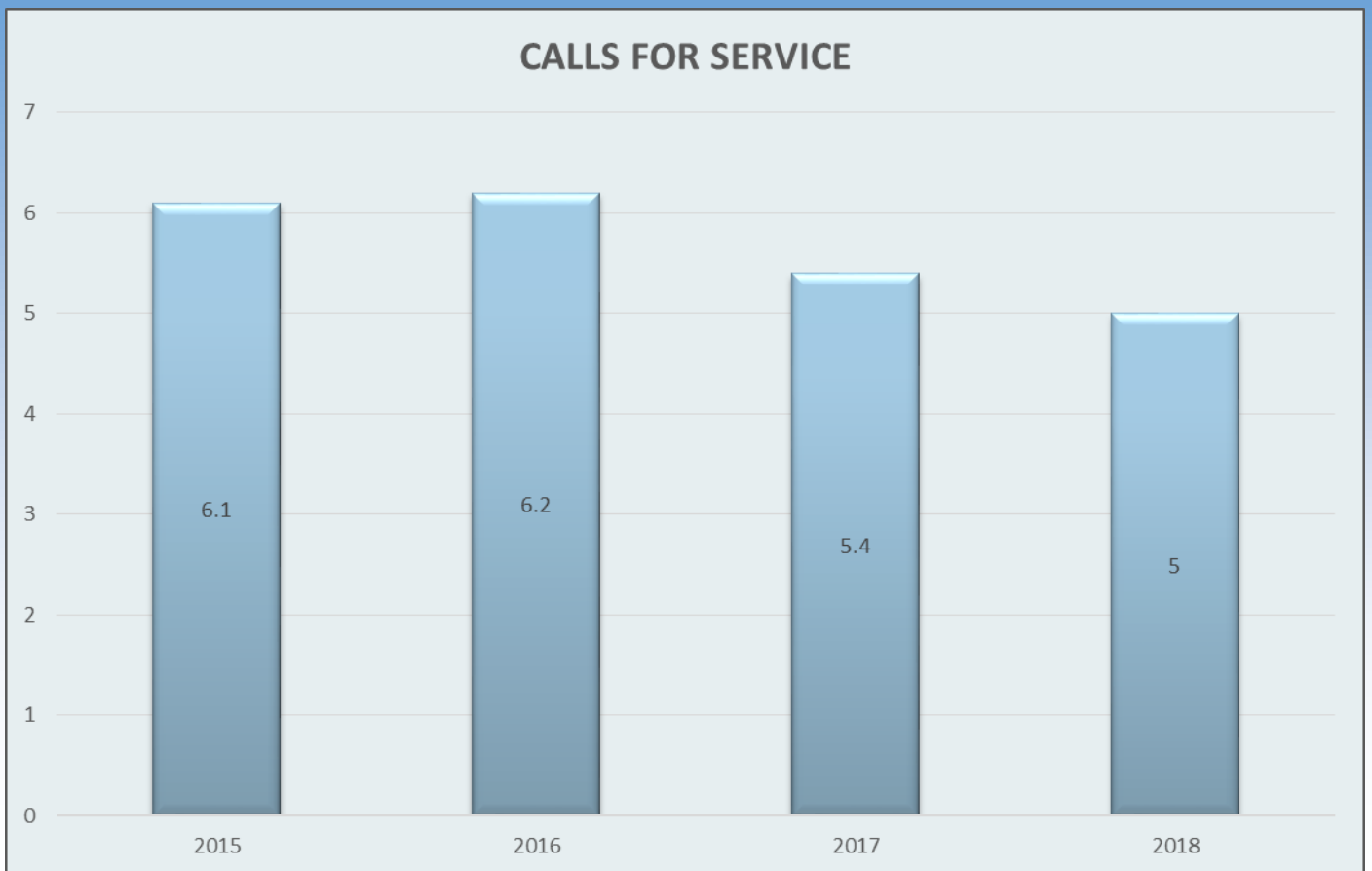
Police Related Assistance

LPD Stats

Felony arrests, possession of marijuana, and parking related offenses increased for 2018. Misdemeanor charges, public drunkenness, and speeding offences showed a decrease. Incidents of driving under the influence matched last year's total of twenty-one. Total calls for service decreased from 5,422 to 5,278.

CRIME STATISTICS

CRIME TYPE	2015	2016	2017	2018
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	307	251	174	143
FELONY ARRESTS	40	65	36	62
DRUNK IN PUBLIC	57	67	47	23
DUI	33	23	21	21
SPEEDING	254	217	314	306
PARKING OFFENSE	717	451	391	458
MARIJUANA POSSESSION	14	21	15	35



**NOTE: Calls for Service indicated as per thousand*

Calls for service to law enforcement agencies generally include calls to “911” for emergency assistance and may also include calls to non-emergency numbers. Calls for service data is typically maintained in law enforcement computer-aided dispatch systems. As agencies make calls for service or CAD data available, consideration must be given to revealing information about sensitive crimes (such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking), discouraging unauthorized persons from going to the scene of an incident, jeopardizing investigations, and managing the safety risks to officers. Despite these considerations, calls for service or CAD data can be extremely useful in helping the community understand and visualize the demands for police service and how the agency responds.

USE OF FORCE

Lexington Police Department policy dictates that police officers will use only that force necessary to protect life and affect lawful objectives. In addition to the use of physical force, police officers in Lexington are equipped with and trained to use Oleoresin Capsicum (“OC”) chemical spray, batons, Tasers and, when necessary, their firearms when performing their lawful duties.

The X26 Taser is a Less Lethal Electronic Control Device (ECD). Electronic Control Devices (ECD) use propelled wires or direct contact to conduct energy to affect the sensory and motor functions of the nervous system. The full implementation of the Taser is expected to significantly reduce the likelihood of both citizen and officer injury in the future due to a reduction in physical contact with combative individuals.

Pepper spray, a chemical compound that irritates the eyes to cause tears, pain, and temporary blindness, is used in policing, riot control, crowd control, and self-defense, including defense against dogs and other dangerous animals. Its inflammatory effects cause the eyes to close, taking away vision. This temporary blindness allows officers to more easily restrain subjects. It also causes temporary discomfort and burning of the lungs which causes shortness of breath.

RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE REVIEW

Every incident in which force is used by a Lexington Police Officer is thoroughly investigated and documented by supervisory staff and is reviewed through the department’s chain-of-command. Supervisory staff monitors officer activity to identify patterns and to provide for consistent, proactive intervention when appropriate.

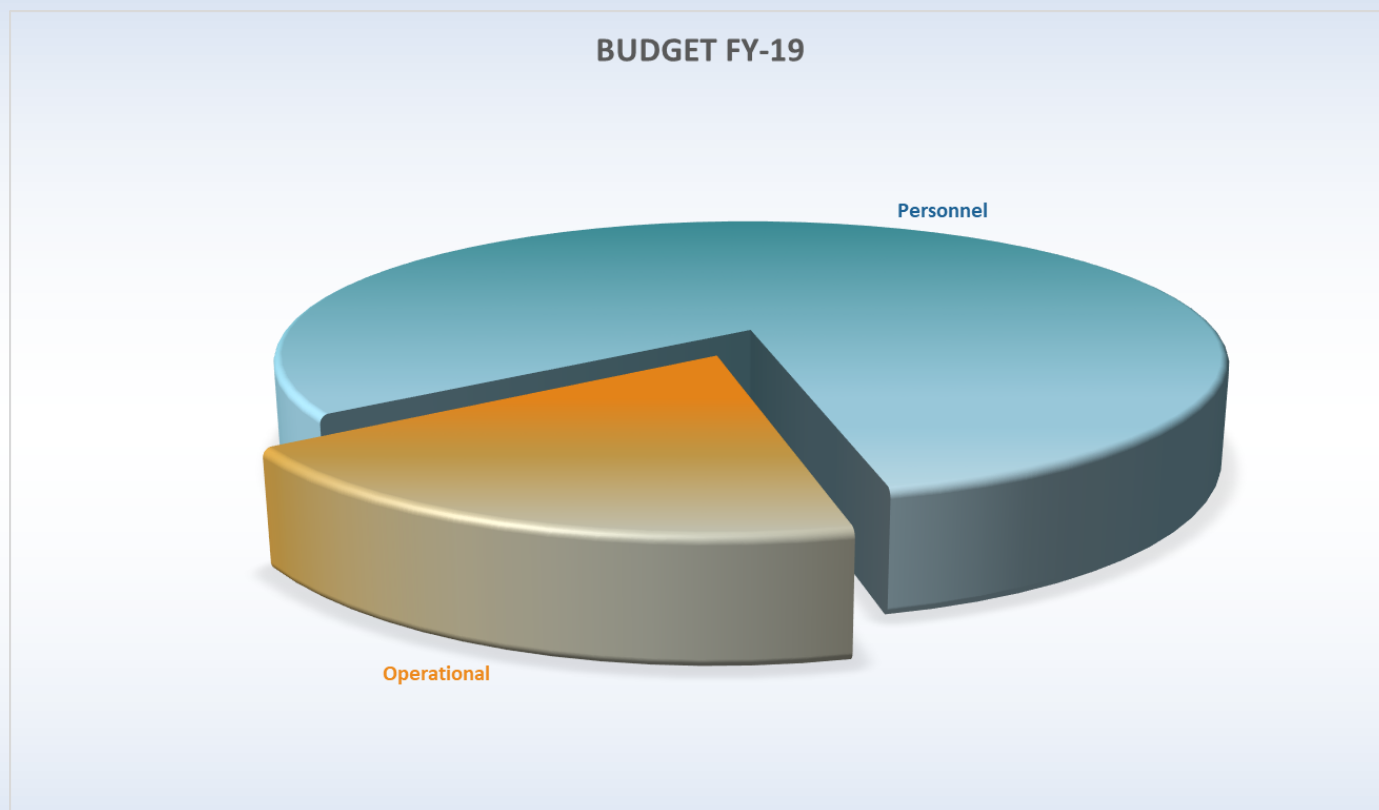
STATISTICAL SUMMARY

During 2018, officers were required to utilize force in 4 of the 205 arrests made. These numbers translate to Lexington officers having used force in approximately 2.2 percent of arrests made.

BUDGET

The Lexington Police Department budget is one component of the budget for the City of Lexington and is based on the City’s fiscal year from July 1 – June 30. The Police Department budget is actually composed primarily of two component budgets – the Police Department and the Special Enforcement Unit.

The total police department budget for FY-19 was \$1,880,758.00. Of this amount, \$1,540,843.00 was committed to personnel costs for salaries and benefits, leaving only \$339,915.00, for operational costs.



OPERATIONAL

FY-16	FY-17	FY-18	FY-19
\$290,270	\$336,650	\$340,840	\$339,915

PERSONNEL

FY-16	FY-17	FY-18	FY-19
\$1,444,074	\$1,378,139	\$1,456,800	\$1,540,843

OATH OF HONOR

On my honor, I will never
betray my badge, my
integrity, my character or the
public trust. I will always
have the courage to hold
myself and others
accountable for our actions.
I will always uphold the
constitution, my
community, and the
agency I serve.





CONTACTS

ADDRESS:

11 Fuller St
Lexington, Virginia 24450

WEBSITE:

www.lexingtonva.gov/173/Police

PHONE:

Emergency
911
Non-Emergency
540.462.3705



Like us on
Facebook at:
[facebook.com/
lexingtonvapolic](https://facebook.com/lexingtonvapolic)